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Anson Dart. (To accompany Senate bill no. 60.)

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 5, 34th Cong., 1st Sess. (1856)

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ANSON DART.

[To accompany Senate bill No. 60.]

MARCH 18, 1856.

Mr. PRINGLE, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred Senate bill No. 60, entitled "An act for the relief of Anson Dart," respectfully report:

That the design of this bill is to authorize the proper accounting officers of the Treasury Department to allow to Mr. Dart, for his services as superintendent of Indian affairs in Oregon Territory, the sum of thirty-five hundred dollars per annum, deducting therefrom the compensation already received by him.

It appears that Mr. Dart was appointed such superintendent in the year 1850, and served in that capacity for the term of nearly three years; that, during the period of his service, he had under his superintendence the Indian affairs of all the country now included within the Territories of Oregon and Washington; that he was a faithful officer, and discharged his duties in a manner highly satisfactory to the government; and that, during the whole of his superintendency, peace and quiet were maintained amongst all the Indian tribes under his care, and also between them and their white neighbors. That, at the time of his appointment, the salary affixed to the office was twenty-five hundred dollars per annum, but he was assured by the chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, and by other members of that body, that a bill which was then pending for an increase of the salary of the superintendent of Indian affairs in California should be made to include the superintendent of Oregon; and that such provision had the sanction and approval of the Indian Bureau, but by accident or oversight the bill was not so amended as to provide for it; and the bill passed fixing the salary of the superintendent in California at four thousand five hundred dollars without changing that of Oregon. Since which time, and since the termination of the official service of Mr. Dart, it has been considered proper and Congress has divided the territory formerly under his care, and

there is now a separate superintendency for each of the Territories of Oregon and Washington.

In ordinary cases, your committee would deem it impolitic to increase the salaries of officers subsequent to the expiration of their terms; but your committee would respectfully suggest that the case of Mr. Dart should be an exception to the general rule, on the ground that strong assurances of an increase of salary were held out by persons in high position, which induced him to accept the office which he would otherwise have rejected; and, further, that, at the time the office was accepted, the salary was quite inadequate to cover his expenses, and at the same time yield to him a reasonable and just compensation for services; and, lastly, that, as an able and faithful public officer, one who looked to the interest of his government rather than to his private interest, and at the same time dealt so honestly and uprightly with the Indians under his care as to acquire and retain their confidence to such an extent as to keep them quiet and contented during the whole time that he was amongst them, he is entitled to the consideration of Congress in a degree sufficient to insure to him a fair and equitable compensation for his services.

Your committee, therefore, report back the said Senate bill without amendment, and recommend its passage.